Anne's Unexpected Proposal, Diana's Surprise, and the Eternal Vow

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Anne's Unexpected Proposal, Diana's Surprise, and the Eternal Vow

by lefemmerouge

Summary

It's Diana's big wedding day with Fred Wright. She has been waiting and preparing for this day for weeks upon weeks. Everything seems to be going smoothly. Anne has another idea. What she has planned is bound to knock Diana's socks off and turn it all upside down. She feels compelled to share her true feelings that she has been holding close to her chest. Can they find their happily ever after together? Or will obstacles get in their way? You'll have to read to find out whether these two young women, who started as bosom friends with one another, will become something more for one another or not...

Notes

Happy May 9th! When I saw the prompt by Nightcoreandcaffeine on a certain site for this event which was "Should have some or all of the following: Fluff, Lavender Relationship, Drabble, Alternate Universe - Modern Setting, Getting Together" I decided to choose the one-and-only fic I have ever written for Anne Shirley, entitled "Anne's Unexpected Proposal, Diana's Surprise, and the Eternal Companionship Vow" which I published for Flufftober last year on AO3, where it garnered 91 hits, 2 bookmarks, 4 kudos, and sadly no comments. It was later published on here, Quotev, Wattpad, and Asianfanfiction with a total of 139 hits/views, with 60% of that from here alone, possibly due to the small number of fics for that fandom, while garnering over 20 hits on Wattpad (26 hits) and Asian Fanfics (21 hits) each, while underperforming on Quotev (only 9 hits).

Furthermore, the original fic was inspired by a wikiHow article about a queerplatonic relationship, a discussion on Arocalypse about Friendship celebrations, a page on Forever Happy Life entitled "How To Conduct A Ceremony Of Friendship?," an article by Wendy Haynes about the handfasting ceremony, an article by Aagrah Banquet entitled "The Ancient Tradition of Gandharva Marriage: Love and Union," an article by Hannah Wise entitled "12 Vows To My Best Friend As Told By Cristina Yang And Meredith Gray," an article by Amy Shock entitled "These Are My Best Friend Vows," an article by Lillian Stone entitled "Friendship

Vows For That Friend You Try To Only See Like, Max, Once A Month," an article by Sarah Aird entitled "You are my best friend wedding vows," a review of the 22nd episode of Anne Shirley anime adaptation by Rebecca Silverman on Anime News Network, the text of the 12th chapter of Anne of Green Gables by L. M. Montgomery, the lyrics of Rebecca Sugar's song "Finale," and my fic "Planning for the Big Day: Rin's Request, Chiaki's Concern, and Aoi's Uncertainty" which I posted on here. I had planned to post it on a certain site, but sadly that was not to be. The original fic fulfilled the "Make it Platonic!" challenge for Flufftober in 2025, along with a number of other fics I published that year too, involving characters from Elena of Avalor and Library War, plus a fic for Moon Girl and Devil Dinosaur.

This fic goes a completely different direction than the original fic because there's no queerplatonic relationships, no friendship/commitment ceremony of the same type, no platonic life partners, no platonic kissing, and no friendship jealousy (at least not ultimately). Instead, it brings together Anne Shirley and her best friend, Diana Barry, romantically in a sweet way, building upon what I said in the A/N of the original version of this fic: "To put it simply, Anne is aesthetically and sensually attracted to Diana. As for Diana, she is emotionally attracted to Anne. On a certain level, you could say they have intellectual attraction toward one another." I further noted that the sentiment of Anne and Diana here stands against the "Happily Never After" message flashed across the screen in the opening to the eighth volume of RWBY, one of my favorite animated series. For all who are interested, DiAnne is the ship name for Diana and Anne, at least as stated on the Shipping Wiki. It's also known as DiAnne, with Anne and Diana calling themselves bosom friends or kindred spirits. Also, I saved a copy on the Internet Archive.

I hope you all enjoy this. Comments, and constructive criticism are fully welcome.

See the end of the work for more notes

- Inspired by Anne's Unexpected Proposal, Diana's Surprise, and the Eternal Companionship Vow by lefemmerouge
- Inspired by The Meaning of Lavender by NightcoreAndCaffeine
- Inspired by fantasy - Femslash February 2024 - 21 by NightcoreAndCaffeine

Everything seemed to be going the way they all expected. Diana would be married to a man that she had pledged to be with for the rest of her life. This was something that her parents, everyone she knew in the community of the small town of Avonlea, and society, expected of her. It was the *right* thing to do, they reasoned. There was *no* alternative. That is what she had been told and internalized for her entire life.

Her friend Anne was there to support her in every way on this big day. At the same time. she lamented that she could *no longer* kiss her. It would be very different once she was married. Diana, as seconds and minutes passed by, continually assured her friend that there wouldn't be any issue. Anne wasn't so sure. She felt that it would be different somehow. She was convinced that something would change between them. With all the hurt, death, suffering, and turmoil she had been through in her life, ever since she arrived at Green Gables, she didn't want to go through it any more. She was happy for her friend. Deep down, she worried that she would face yet another loss. She wasn't sure she could take it.

The day played out the same as it did in the another world. Diana frantically worked to get the old-timey wedding ready. Anne told her that she never believed that the day that she'd be a bridesmaid would come *so soon*. It felt like it hadn't been that long ago that they had been little girls. She remembered those days very fondly. She started to bawl her eyes out. Diana told her she didn't need to cry. She tried to tell her it would be okay, as tears streamed down her cheek. She even declared, afterward, that she'd give Anne her blessing to be with some annoying blah guy named Roy. This was a man that Anne wasn't even sure about herself. They hugged one another in a close embrace.

Later that day, she returned to the room. She was amazed and overwhelmed when she saw Diana in her wedding dress. Anne, who was also wearing a beautiful dress, comforted her friend. She said it was just like she had imagined the night before. She called her friend the "bride of her dreams, with a lovely, misty veil." Diana responded happily. Anne then boldly called herself a dedicated, and loyal, bridesmaid. She expressed her concern that Fred Wright was taking Diana away from *her*. She did not want to compromise her needs or her choices. She wanted to remain strong. She didn't want to give up what she felt was hers and no one else's. That was her right, after all.

Diana reassured her that Fred wasn't taking her away. She said they weren't really parting. As she put it, they would, and could, still love each other as much as they ever did. It was something they swore to maintain long in the past. She firmly stated that they always kept that "sweet oath" of friendship. She declared they'd continue to be bosom friends no matter what. Anne replied that she was right, noting that they had

always kept their oath faithfully, and hoped for it to continue. Even so, she was worried, feeling it wouldn't be the same after Diana was married. She'd have other interests, causing her to be left behind. She had also begun to see her as more than a friend with feelings bubbling inside her.

Seeing her friend crying once again, Diana came close to her. She hugged her tightly and whispered in her ear, telling her that she won't be discarded. They had a sweet moment together, with Diana declaring that even though she was being married to a man, that did not mean that she couldn't be *her* bridesmaid. Anne revealed that she would be her friend Phil's bridesmaid later that year. She strongly stated that she would *never* be a bride. Someone apparently couldn't be a bridesmaid at three weddings and be married, at least according to local lore. At that moment, Anne left their embrace and announced, to her friend, that the minster had arrived outside. The stage was set.

She couldn't let this moment pass. She *could* have let things go as planned, without interfering. She *could* have let Diana marry Fred. She refused to let that any of that awfulness happen. She wouldn't let it happen! She had to stop it, somehow. She wouldn't let their time together end. She wouldn't let Diana's last name be subsumed by Fred's, a practice that she feared herself if she ever married a man. She wouldn't let Diana become Diana Wright! She couldn't stomach that. When Diana told her that she felt nervous, wondering if she could go through with it, and began to faint, Anne could have said she'd drag her down to the rainwater hogshead and drop her in, so that she would be in the right mindset. She could have told her to have courage. She could have told her that getting married *wasn't terrible*. She could have told her that marriage was something that all women can *survive*.

Under the rules of coverture, women lost their identities upon marrying men, causing them to, legally, become extensions of their husbands. As such, some had to opt out of marrying men entirely, allowing them to retain the money they inherited or earned, buy and sell property, or enter into legal contracts. This led to the rise of what some called a "Boston marriage," with two independent women choosing to build a household and life together. Anne had never thought that far ahead, nor had she ever heard of the term. Despite that, there was one thing she did know: if she let the marriage between Diana and Fred go forward, she'd be devastated. It would ruin her.

In another world, Diana would tell her dutiful friend that she would have to see how composed she'd be when her turn for marriage came. Anne would describe her as a lovely darling and ask her for a kiss. Diana did what she asked, and said that she would *always* be at her side. This world was different. Anne took a bold step forward. It was risky, but she felt that she had to do it. "Di, you don't have to go through with this...you

could come with me...we could run away *together*." Her friend looked at her like she had seven heads. How could she be saying this, *at a time like this*? What would the people there think? Why was Anne even suggesting this? Did she not want this for her?

"My dear, sweet Anne, what are you trying to tell me? That I shouldn't get married? But Fred is so very handsome...and I..." Her friend shook her head. Perhaps she was being selfish. Sure, she wasn't *supposed* to do something like this. She couldn't let anyone tell her how to feel. She wouldn't reveal her inner thoughts. Her romantic feelings toward Diana were a tangled knot of emotions. Growing up was an incredibly frightening prospect. She wasn't sure about change, with all she'd gone through. Perhaps she would never grow out of her fear of things changing. Maybe she'd stick with comfortability, on some level, above anything else. That was okay. Even so, you need to do bold things from time to time.

"...we can be together, forever, Di, happily ever after...isn't that what all those romance novels you read say?" Her friend chuckled. Anne was acting very weirdly now. She wanted her to walk away from all of this? How could she? "Are you asking me to be *your wife*?" she asked pointedly. Anne moved her head from side to side. That wasn't what she wanted at all. Her friend had it all wrong. She wasn't thinking about this the right way. She had to set her straight. "No, that's not my request at all. Rather, I am asking for us to renew our vows not as *friends*, but as *lovers*, to re-pledge ourselves as eternal companions...for one another...and for no one else."

Diana somewhat understood what she was saying. She still thought she felt something for Fred, although she was unsure what. Even so, she couldn't leave her friend hanging. She was unsure how to reply, She uttered one word: "okay." Anne knew that if she left out of the door and walked down the stairs with her friend, everyone would see them. So, she only had one option to escape: the window. She scooped up Diana like a princess and smashed through the window, to Diana's horror. *What in the world was her friend doing?!* As the glass shards fell around her, she looked at her friend with admiration and devotion. Anne would go through so much ridicule for this. She knew that for sure.

The people nearby were in shock at the loud sound. Anne was completely bloodied from the encounter. Diana was going to say something. Without a second thought, Anne unhitched a horse from the wagon, which was supposed to carry Diana and her groom. She jumped atop it. Following her friend's instructions, she grabbed her firmly around the stomach. Smacking the horse on the side, Anne caused it to lurch forward. She wasn't sure how this would go. Luckily, the horse was compliant enough to go along with her commands. It galloped away from the house as

people looked at both of them in utter disbelief. What in the world was Diana doing? And Anne? *No one knew.*

They could have made their way to the garden, which had been full of mellow sunset light, streaming through the old, dark, firs, where they had once gazed at each other near a magnificent tiger lily. They could have traveled through the scary deep forest, which they both called the Haunted Wood, because they *imagined* it was haunted. Going back to the garden, with its bountiful flowers and prim pathways, that mostly sat in the shade, would not be right. Instead, they headed to the woods, where Anne and Gilbert had once walked, together. Diana did not know the place, but she trusted Anne. Although no one was chasing after them, they were still both in a daze over what had happened already.

They finally reached their destination: a beautiful blooming tree. It was filled with delicious, red fruit, particularly apples. White flowers filled the air, floating in the nice, calm breeze. Acting almost like a gentleman, Anne helped Diana off the horse, which she tied to a nearby branch. The horse minded its own business as it began eating some of the nearby rotten apples, which it liked for some reason.

In awe of what was around her, she didn't notice Anne leaning down on one knee, almost like she was proposing to her. "Oh, Di, you are a kindred spirit, with your soulful eyes, and caring spirit. Ever since that day in your splendid garden, I have come to see you as not just a friend, but someone that I cannot live without. I deeply care for you, as much as you do for me. I connect with you deeply in a way that I cannot with anyone else and confide in you when times get tough. You mean more to me than I've ever known. I adore your smile, your laugh, the way you look at me, and promise to be true to you, to share my hopes, dreams, and thoughts."

She then popped the question. She came up with it on the spot, almost while drawing from some novel she had been writing. "Do you swear to remain faithful, no matter what happens between us, as my dearest, most treasured person, to support, honor, love, and encourage each other, to remind you of what you forgot, to be honest, to accept you, to be your own person, and to be mine, and no one else's, until death do us part?" Although this was a bit long and somewhat clunky, her friend could see she had really thought about it. She excitedly chirped. "I do!" She asked the same question of her friend. "Yes, I do, my sweet Di." Certainly she was a *queer* girl, in the sense that she was weird. She could be queer in the *other way*, as well, although no one had begun using that word like that, apart from stating it as a pejorative. Anne suddenly exclaimed, "you may now kiss the woman you love!"

Diana did just that and smooched her softly on the lips. She couldn't stop herself from expressing her deeply held feelings for this young woman.

They had an unbreakable bond of personal, and emotional, commitment to be at each other's side, no matter what, for the rest of their lives. Anne firmly held her now-lover's hand, and smiled, then lovingly kissed her on the forehead. She was too embarrassed to kiss her the same way Diana had, especially since the blush was filling her face with the same color as the nearby ripe apples, although a much brighter red color. Perhaps some people would see this kind of thing as unnecessary and over the top, saying it wasn't needed. For them it wasn't. However, there was one qualifier: they'd *never* do this in public. They didn't want others to see. This was something which was all their own and between *only* them.

Each of them had some level of attraction to each other, but not in the "usual" way. For one. Anne appreciated the beauty and appearance of Diana. She wanted physical contact with her, at times, including cuddling, kissing, and hugging. Diana felt a similar way toward Anne. At the same time, on a certain level, Diana was drawn to Anne due to her personality, rather than simply her physical appearance. As each of them began to learn more about the world, they wanted to engage with each other intellectually, through debate and conversation. Neither one, was, however, jealous when other friends were mentioned. Some did get jealous, leading to unnecessary tensions.

Anne and Diana, in this moment, did not mind smashing apart social norms. Their bond would be strong, emotional, and *romantic*. Whether it could be easily stuffed into a box or not, it might even become a bit sexual or erotic. It was not a friendship, as some define it: non-committed, short-term, and fleeing. Anne *insisted* that this had to be exclusive. She didn't want Diana to marry a man under *any* circumstances. She knew about the assumptions when it came to romantic love, but she didn't care that at all. She'd rather give Diana kisses either on her cheek, her lips, or *anywhere else*. She'd hold her hands, sit in her lap, and cuddle, or whatever she desired. Perhaps they'd even have pecks on the lips, sleep together, or see each other naked. They'd have to build up to that, of course. At the same time, she clearly saw Diana as her life partner. There is no doubt that Diana felt similarly. How could she not?

Some would say there was no such thing as happily ever and that there was always more work to do, as some magical kid with a diamond in his belly had once said to a cartoonish, revenge-filled extraterrestrial being who wanted to murder him and destroy the entire planet. Neither Diana or Anne thought of it that way. No matter what happened next and no matter the consequences, they'd be together. They'd be ready every day to confront new challenges, to stand side by side against anything the world threw at them, to push back against *anything* which knocked them down. For Anne and Diana, their happily ever after would *never* end. They would have a bright future where they both would shine...

End Notes

In the ending A/N for the original fic, I noted the fic was fluff, i.e. feel-good, pleasant works with affection between two-plus characters, in a romantic or non-romantic relationship, and said I enjoyed writing it, noting that I had to go back to the episode to make sure I had the plot right, then I wrote what happened next, even watching key scenes from the dubbed version. I further noted my inspirations for the "friendship ceremony," and said that the blooming tree depicted here is the same one in the series finale, which Rebecca Silverman shows in an image associated with her review. In addition, I noted how I used chapter 12 of the original 1908 novel by Lucy Maud Montgomery, Anne of Green Gables, in putting together Anne's vow, and stated that the fic has some elements of "crack" referring to a highly addictive fic, which has a "fundamentally ludicrous premise, or otherwise including a plethora of unbelievable, incredible, or just plain silly elements...implying the author/artist must have been on drugs to produce something so bonkers."

At the same time, the line in which I talk about "some magical kid with a diamond in his belly" is referring to Steven Universe, and what he says in the Steven Universe movie to Spinel (who I call "a cartoonish, revenge-filled extraterrestrial being who wanted to murder him and destroy the entire planet"), while referencing some lines/vibes of the "Happily Ever After" song. I also said that I planned to use this fic as a model for other "friend-weddings"/"friend celebrations" in future fics, if I choose to write them, but I'm not sure I will do that or not. I haven't fully decided.

The original fic was 2,377 words long and this fic is 2,657 words, adding 280 words or about 11.8% more. I changed the title to "Anne's Unexpected Proposal, Diana's Surprise, and the Eternal Vow" from the original, the summary to be more gay. Funny enough, I didn't actually have to change that much to make it more romantic (only certain parts were changed to make it stronger). That's because the relationship that Anne and Diana as described in the original fic was *already* a romantic/close friendship, so it was simple enough to adapt it to be more romantic in order to **fulfill** the prompt on a certain site. I had originally wanted to make this more spicy. I may do that in another fic instead, which I'll publish sometime in the future. The other existing Anne of Green Gables fics on the below-described site are inspirations, as they sort of are, in a certain way. Only one can be read on there, like "making the obvious into riddles (I will always love you)" by bluedreaming, while the other two, "fantasy - Femslash February 2024 - 21" and "The Meaning of Lavender" by NightcoreAndCaffeine can be read on here.

This fic originally posted on Sunset, a femslash fanfic site. However, it was removed when I was sadly perma-banned on April 17th for

mishandling interactions with a few users, despite apologizing to those users, removing certain passages of fics, and apologizing to the Sunset admin (and others). As such, I would strongly recommend **against** *anyone* joining that site, or Superlove. Both admins (Melo/Kat for Superlove, Agnes for Sunset) are friends with each other. Those admins are very particular and not in a good way. I find the whole circumstance deeply unfortunate. I wish it could have been resolved a much better way.

I do not want this fic to be lost. I have not included some tags on Sunset (like Prompt Fill, Sunset's Femslash Refresh 2026, Exclusive to Sunset, and Romantic Attraction) but others have been retained. On Sunset it was listed as part of one series: "My Femslash Refresh 2026 Collection."

Please drop by the Archive and comment to let the creator know if you enjoyed their work!